



Together For Kids and Families

Early Care & Education Work Group Meeting Summary

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Welcome & Introductions

Jen welcomed work group members and facilitated introductions.

Attendees

Jen Goettemoeller, Terry Rohren, Amy Bornemeier, Kristine Luebbe, Jennifer Haggart, Mary Beth Pistillo, Sarah Ann Kotchian, Tiffany Mullison, Teresa Gerlach, Tracy Gordon, and Melody Hobson

Review Meeting Minutes from February 27, 2014

The group reviewed the meeting minutes and accepted the minutes as submitted. Sarah Ann will reach out to the 2 potential members in Omaha and provide Tiffany with email addresses, Tiffany will forward materials to both about TFKF and the Early Care & Education work group specifically.

Step Up to Quality Update

Terry Rohren and Melody Hobson provided an update. The standard document and program guide are in the final editing stages. Jessica LaChere accepted the quality specialist position. She will be working on CLAS and ERS. She will help with the trainings, observations, and reliability. The Coach Specialist will start May 12. This person will be responsible for the coaching aspect of the QRIS. Eleanor continues to work with NAP SACC, Extension, NAEYC, etc. The data system will launch on July 1, 2014. Licensing will be able to import data into the data system. On the subsidy side, an MOU will be developed so the subsidy system will interface with the data system. Records of training and licensing information will be on the data system to be tracked. At this time, 12 centers are required to participate in Step Up to Quality due to the amount of subsidy they receive.

Interviews are underway for additional staff at NDOE; interviews scheduled now and an additional person will be hired after July 1, 2014. Dipti Dev will help with NAP SACC training and standardizing the training.

Legislative Summary

Jen highlighted relevant legislation and how legislation may impact the work plan. Click on the link below for information on early childhood in the session that ended April 17, 2014.

<http://www.firstfivebraska.org/nebraska-is-taking-action/content/current-legislation/>

Future Focus Discussion

Tiffany facilitated a discussion on convening the 5 TFKF work groups. Member input included:

- How
 - Video conferencing for large group meetings helped see/hear from all 5 groups
 - Technology at the Executive Building had glitches in the past. Suggestion of using NET and Adobe Connect
 - Written summary distributed electronically is an option to meeting
- Why
 - Helps people see the big picture, especially new members
- Frequency & Duration
 - 2 hour in length is a good time frame
 - 2x/year. 1 would be OK
- Content
 - Hear how other groups have updated their plans with the new focus on toxic stress
 - Specific reporting for each group so reports are consistent across groups
- Terry suggested greater connection between the ECICC and TFKF. Terry and Tiffany will co-author an invite to the Co-Chairs to present at ECICC meetings. Members supported this idea as a great way to blend, fold, and interweave the work. Co-Chairs will be scheduled based on the focus area of the meeting. CCHC and Dental/Medical are grouped together.
- Melody shared she appreciated the development of the TFKF Goals and Strategies 1 page handout. She shared with the new Commissioner.

Updates, Sharing & Next Steps

- 2014 CYFS Summit on Research in Early Childhood – those who attended were incredibly impressed with the content of the Summit. All materials are available on the CYS website. The conference reached capacity with 200; there was a waiting list. Members suggesting inviting presenters to the work group, particularly those who spoke on economic issues impacting parent/child time in rural areas and also moral development.
<http://cyfs.unl.edu/ecs/2014/>
- Work Plan – the group made suggestions on updating the plan.
- Job Changes – since last April, several people have remained in early childhood, but changed positions. Lynne Brehm and Amy Bornemeier are at Nebraska Children and Families Foundation. Eleanor Shirley is leading Step Up to Quality; Joan Luebbers replaced Eleanor in Head Start. Amy Bunnell replaced Joan in EDN at NDOE; Cole Johnson replaced Amy in EDN at DHHS. Laura Maddox left LPS to work at the state level in Ohio. Terry Rohren will retire in July 2014.

Meeting Information for 2014

The group agreed to schedule the next meeting for the last Thursday of the month, June 26, at First Five Nebraska.